(e) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited supply coal to both core and non-core sector consumers having valid linkage. Verification of non-core sector consumers is being done for ascertaining the existence, working status and consumption of coal. Out of the total 4784 valid linked consumers in non-core sector, a total of 3593 units have so far been verified. A total of 334 units have been found non-existing/not operating and coal supplies to these consumers have been discontinued.

(c) Since coal is sold to linked consumers both in core and non-core sectors at the notified price, the question of any loss to the coal companies does not arise.

(d) No such information has come to the notice of Government.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply to part (d) above.

Irregularities and rampant corruption in BCCL

5256. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received several representations from MPs and other representatives of Jharkhand and Bihar drawing their attention towards the alleged irregularities and rampant corruption in BCCL, Dhanbad;

(b) if so, the nature of allegations, levelled in these representations, against BCCL, Dhanbad; and

(c) the action taken/proposed by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from MPs, MLAs, and others regarding alleged irregularities in securing employment against land, theft of slurry from

washery, malpractices inspection of materials at regional stores, etc. in Bharat Coking Coal Limited.

(c) The allegations are enquired into and whenever charges of irregularties are established, departmental action is taken as per rules. During the year 2001 -2002 (upto December, 2001) 77 cases were taken up for investigation in BCCL. In 6 cases departmental inquiries were completed resulting in imposition of penalties on 8 officers.

Corruption in Northern Coalfields Ltd., Singraulli

5257. SHRI MUNNAVAR HASAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many officials are working for the last ten to fifteen years in a single project out of various projects of Northern Coalfields Limited, Singraulli as a result of which corruption is rampant there;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of Government's transfer policy; and

(d) by when Government would transfer these officials to other projects who are engaged in the same project for more than five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) There are some officers who are working at one project for the last 10 to 15 years in Northern Coalfields Limited. However, it is not true that due to this reason, corruption is rampant in these proejcts. The company monitors the conduct of its officers including taking action in case any irregularity comes to notice.

(b) There are in all 268 executives (E1 to M3) who are posted at one project for 10 to 15 years. Out of 268 executives, only 2 executives in M1 and above category are transferable as per policy. However, as per decision of the company only those who have completed 20 years or more (in M1 and above grades) in one place have been transferred.

The remaining 266 executives are in E1 to E5 scale are not tansferable on completion of 10 years in one place. However, they can be transferred on administrative grounds or on promotion to M1 grade. The details of